

PTO
09/28/90
04/09/99

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. W0490/7007/RJP

First Named Inventor or Application Identifier

HOWLAND, Charles A.

Express Mail Label No. EL056826959US

Date of Deposit April 9, 1999

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents

ADDRESS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

TO:

1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Specification [Total pages 16]
13 pages specification
1 pages abstract
2 pages claims
9 claims
3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) [Total sheets 5]
☐ Informal ☒ Formal [Total drawings 9]
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration [Total pages 2]
a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)
b. ☒ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
[Note Box 5 below]
i. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. ☐ Incorporation by Reference
(usable if Box 4b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

6. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
7. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

8. ☒ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & documents(s))
9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney
(when there is an assignee)
10. ☐ English Translation of Document (if applicable)
11. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Citations ☐ Copies of IDS
12. ☒ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
14. ☐ Small Entity ☒ Statement filed in prior Statement(s) application, Status still proper and desired
15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)

16. Other:

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

☐ Continuation ☒ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: 09/037,918

☐ Cancel in this application original claims of the prior application before calculating the filing fee.

☐ Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

This application is a ☐ continuation ☐ divisional of application serial no. , filed , entitled , and now .

18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Correspondence address below

ATTORNEY'S NAME	Randy J. Pritzker, Reg. No. 35,986				
NAME	Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.				
ADDRESS	600 Atlantic Avenue				
CITY	Boston	STATE	MA	ZIP	02210
COUNTRY	USA	TELEPHONE	(617) 720-3500	FAX	(617) 720-2441

19. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

NAME	Randy J. Pritzker, Reg. No. 35,986
SIGNATURE	Randy J. Pritzker
DATE	April 9, 1999

Inventor or Identifier: HOWLAND, Charles A.

Serial No: Not yet assigned

Filed: Herewith

CHECK BOX, if applicable:

For: PROTECTIVE FABRIC HAVING HIGH PENETRATION

☐ **DUPLICATE**

Fee Calculation Sheet

CLAIMS	FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	FEE
	TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(c))	9-20=	0 x	\$18	= \$0.00
	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(b))	3-3=	0 x	\$78	= \$0.00
	MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS (if applicable) (37 CFR 1.16(d)) +			\$	= \$
				BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a))	\$760.00
				Total of above Calculations =	\$760.00
				Reduction by 50% for filing by small entity (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).	\$380.00
				Assignment Recordation Fee (if any)	\$
				Other Fees (e.g., Petition for Extension of Time), if any NOTE: Enter small-entity amount if applicable.	\$
				TOTAL =	\$380.00

1. A check in the amount of \$380.00 is enclosed.

General Authorization to Charge Deposit Account and General Request for Extension of Time

2. a. ☒ If the filing of any paper in this application necessitates the payment of a fee under 37 CFR § 1.16 ☒ 1.17 or ☐ 1.18, and the fee due is in an amount different from any enclosed check or if no check is enclosed, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.
- b. ☐ The applicant hereby revokes any prior authorization to charge a fee due under 37 CFR § 1.16 ☐ 1.17 or ☐ 1.18.
3. If the filing of any paper in this application necessitates an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), the applicant hereby requests such extension of time. If the fee due is in an amount different from any enclosed check or if no check is enclosed, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Randy J. Pritzer
 Randy J. Pritzer, Reg. No. 35,986
 Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
 600 Atlantic Avenue
 Boston, MA 02210-2211
 (617) 720-3500
 Attorneys of Record

Attorney's Docket No. W0490/7001/RJP

Applicant or Patentee: Charles A. Howland
Serial or Patent No.: 08/729,926
Filed or Issued: October 15, 1996
For: PROTECTIVE FABRIC HAVING HIGH PENETRATION RESISTANCE

**DECLARATION CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN)**

I hereby declare that I am

- ☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on
behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN: Warwick Mills
ADDRESS OF CONCERN: 301 Turnpike Road, New Ipswich, New Hampshire 03071

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled PROTECTIVE FABRIC HAVING HIGH PENETRATION RESISTANCE by inventor(s), Charles A. Howland, described in

- ☐ the specification filed herewith
☒ application serial no. 08/729,926, filed October 15, 1996
☐ patent no. _____, issued _____.

If the rights held by the small business concern are not exclusive, each individual concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor

under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

- ☐ no such person, concern, or organization
☐ persons, concerns or organizations listed below*

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME
ADDRESS

☒ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

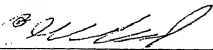
I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Charles A. Howland

TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER: Executive Vice President

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 32 Pidgeon Road, Weston, Massachusetts 02193

SIGNATURE  DATE 1/31/97

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Charles A. Howland
Serial No: Not Yet Assigned
Filed: Herewith
Title: PROTECTIVE FABRIC HAVING HIGH PENETRATION RESISTANCE

Examiner: ----
Art Unit: 1771

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

REMARKS

This application is a divisional application of application serial no. 09/037,918.

An Office Action was received in connection with the parent application to this divisional application in which the claims were rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,578,358 to Foy. The claims as presented herein are believed to be patentable over Foy.

Claim 1 recites a protective fabric substrate comprising: a plurality of warp yarns densely interwoven with a plurality of fill yarns; wherein a denier of the fill yarn is not equal to a denier of the warp yarn. Foy neither discloses nor suggests a substrate including warp yarns densely interwoven with fill yarns and in which a denier of the fill yarn is not equal to a denier of the warp yarn. In fact, Foy

teaches away from this concept in that each fabric disclosed in Foy employs a balanced structure in which the denier of the warp yarn is equal to the denier of the fill yarn. For this reason, claim 1 is allowable.

Because claims 2-5 depend from and further limit claim 1, such claims are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 6 recites a protective fabric substrate comprising: a plurality of warp yarns densely interwoven with a plurality of fill yarns; wherein a warp crimp is greater than a fill crimp; and wherein a denier of the fill yarn is greater than a denier of the warp yarn.

For the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1, claim 6 also is allowable over Foy.

Because claims 7 and 8 depend from and further limit claim 6, such claims are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 9 recites a protective fabric substrate comprising: a substrate including a plurality of warp yarns densely interwoven with a plurality of fill yarns; and a layer of epoxy resin applied to the substrate.

Foy neither discloses nor suggests a substrate of densely interwoven yarns which includes a layer of epoxy resin applied to the substrate. For this reason, claim 9 also is allowable.

Based on the foregoing, the present application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is

invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number listed below to further the prosecution of this application in any respect.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy J. Pritzker

Randy J. Pritzker
Reg. No. 35,986
WOLF, GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA, 02210
(617) 720-3500
Attorney for Applicant(s)

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: W0490/7007

Dated: April 9, 1999

XNDD

00000000-00000000

PROTECTIVE FABRIC HAVING HIGH PENETRATION RESISTANCE

RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a divisional application of serial no. 09/037,918, filed March 10, 1998.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a protective fabric having a high resistance to penetration by instruments such as ice picks and the like and to vestments made from such fabric.

DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART

Protective clothing is used in a multiplicity of applications to protect the wearer against harm from a variety of objects such as knives, picks, bullets, and the like.

Protective clothing of the type worn by prison guards, among others, must be capable of withstanding assault by a variety of instruments. Typically, they are judged by their resistance to ballistic penetration (e.g., by .357 magnum and 9 mm ammunition); dagger cutting; penetration by single and double-edged knives; and puncture by both blunt (e.g., 3:1 ratio of tip diameter to shaft diameter) and sharp (e.g., 12:1 ratio of tip diameter to shaft diameter) instruments such as ice picks and the like. Of these measures of performance, one of the most difficult to achieve is resistance to puncture, particularly by sharp instruments.

Varied approaches have heretofore been utilized to provide the requisite protection. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,185,195 teaches the use of a number of layers of fabric secured together by closely spaced rows of stitching. Overlapping ceramic disks are also optionally incorporated into the vestment.

U.S. Patent No. 4,737,401 teaches formation of a ballistic resistant fabric from high molecular weight fibers of polyolefin, polyvinyl alcohol, and polyacrylonitrile materials. The fibers may additionally be coated. U.S. Patent No. 4,574,105 teaches the use of both polyester (p-phenylene terephthalamide) yarns and polyamide yarns. U.S. Patent No. 5,225,241 teaches the enhancement to ballistic penetration by forming a vestment from coated fibers.

Because of the extreme demands made on the materials, they are frequently expensive to produce, both in fabric and in finished form. In addition, processes used to form the fabric

and the finished article frequently result in a fabric and an article which is relatively stiff and not readily drapable. Accordingly, the user frequently finds such vestments unduly restrictive and uncomfortable, and often dispenses their use in situations where good safety practices would otherwise call for them.

Accordingly, it is an object of the invention to provide a fabric having improved penetration resistance.

Further, it is an object of the invention to provide a fabric having comparatively high resistance to penetration by both blunt and sharp instruments.

Still a further object of the invention is to provide a fabric having enhanced resistance to penetration by both blunt and sharp instruments.

Still a further object of the invention is to provide a fabric having enhanced resistance to penetration by both blunt and sharp instruments that is also characterized by a acceptable drapability.

Another object of the invention is to provide a fabric that has enhanced resistance to penetration by blunt and sharp instruments and that is characterized by a comparatively low cost per unit of protection provided.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide a vestment having enhanced resistance to penetration by blunt or sharp probes, as well as enhanced resistance to penetration by knives and ballistic penetration.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a fabric substrate including a plurality of warp yarns densely interwoven with a plurality of fill yarns.

In an embodiment of the invention, a denier of the fill yarn is not equal to a denier of the warp yarn.

In one embodiment of the invention, an epoxy resin is applied to the substrate.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing and other objects and features of the invention will be more readily understood on reference to the following detailed description of the invention, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is an illustrative sketch of a cross-section of fabric woven at a normal weaving

density and showing an end-on view of warp yarns at the point of shed crossing between two fill yarns (Fig. 1A) and at the center of a fill yarn (Fig. 1B).

Fig. 2 is an illustrative sketch of a cross-section of densely-woven fabric and showing an end-on view of the warp yarns at the point of shed crossing between two fill yarns (Fig. 2A) and at the center of a fill yarn (Fig. 2B);

Fig. 2C is an enlarged illustrative sketch of several of the yarns of Fig. 2A showing the flattened "keystone" structure of the yarns;

Fig. 3 is a graph showing the "cover" of various density weaves;

Fig. 4 is a graph showing the "crimp" of various density weaves;

Fig. 5 is a chart showing the performance of a number of fabrics as measured by common tests for protective materials;

Fig. 6 is a graph showing the resistance to penetration of the fabrics of Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is a graph showing the cost/benefit performance of the fabrics of Fig. 5;

Fig. 8 is a sketch of an alternative form of fabric used in constructing protective fabric in accordance with the present invention having particularly enhanced resistance to cutting penetration of the type encountered with thin, sharp knives; and

Fig. 9 is a sketch of a plurality of the fabric sheets of Fig. 8 assembled into a stack for forming a vestment therefrom.

In accordance with the present invention, a protective fabric of high penetration resistance is formed from a plurality of layered, densely woven fabrics, each formed by tightly weaving multifilament yarns to obtain a warp yarn "density" or "cover" in excess of 100% at the center of the fill yarn. Further, the fill yarn density or cover is preferably also in excess of 75% as measured between two warp ends. The yarns themselves preferably comprise a high modulus (less than 5% elongation at the breaking point), high breaking strength (greater than 15 grams per denier) yarn. In an embodiment of the invention, the warp "crimp" (defined herein) preferably is greater than the fill "crimp". The warp and fill yarns are preferably twisted, consistent with the maximum breaking strength. Materials which have been found especially suitable for the present invention are the para-aramids (e.g., Kevlar); high density polyethylenes (e.g., Spectra); and liquid crystal polyesters (e.g., Vectran).

"Normal" density fabrics typically are 50x50 (i.e., 50 warp yarns to the inch by 50 fill yarns to the inch) to 70x70, for example, at 200 denier. Such fabrics have little resistance to penetration, even when used in multiple layers. In accordance with the present invention,

however, a protective fabric having extremely high penetration resistance is formed by layering a plurality of densely woven fabric sheets of construction ranging from 90x88 to 130x86 at 200x200 denier, and from 100x68 to 130x65 at 200x400 denier. Fabrics at these levels of construction are known as "densely woven", "tightly woven" or "overconstructed", and are known but uncommon. They have heretofore been used in said cloth but not, to my knowledge, in protective clothing. For use in the present invention, the fabrics are preferably woven from a high-modulus, multi-filament material such as a standard type 29 Kevlar material. The resultant protective fabrics are characterized by high penetration resistance, good drapability, and relatively low cost per unit of resistance.

The number of layers of basic fabric used in the present invention, of course, depends on the threat against which the wearer is to be protected. For example, protection against penetration by a thin instrument such as an awl is extremely difficult. Yet, with the fabric and construction of the present invention, twenty five layers of a 110x67 weave of density 200x400 denier resisted penetration forces of up to 81 foot pounds as applied with an ice pick of 0.163 inch diameter at 5 meters/sec. When fifty four layers of this fabric were stacked together, the resultant composite resisted penetration up to an applied awl force of in excess of four hundred inch pounds.

The resistance to penetration and cutting by knives of vestments made from such material is also enhanced by incorporating this fabric into a vestment including additional plies of an outer layer of heavy yarn (e.g., 300-500 denier) with loose weave (e.g., from 15x15 to 18x18); a middle layer of conventional ballistic fabrics (e.g., from 27x27 to 31x31 and from 1000 to 840 denier material); and an innermost or bottom layer of the protective fabric of the present invention.

The dense construction of the fabric layers in the present invention greatly restricts in-plane motion, and thus requires increased out-of-plane extrusion for any significant penetration. The out-of-plane extrusion forces significantly accumulate over successive layers to the extent that further penetration requires the breakage of large numbers of high-modulus, high breaking-strength fibers before further penetration can be achieved. This not only limits penetration by thin, sharp instruments such as awls and picks, but also increases protection against sharp-edged instruments such as knives which must first penetrate before they can cut.

In Fig. 1, a plain woven fabric constructed in accordance with typical weaving practice (e.g., 70 warp threads per inch, 70 fill threads per inch, 200 denier warp, 200 denier fill

(hereinafter denoted as a 70x70 (200x200) weave) has a plurality of warp yarns 12 extending lengthwise along the fabric (the lengthwise direction in this case being transverse to the plane of the paper of Fig. 1 so that the warp yarns are shown in cross-section) and traversed at intervals by fill yarns 14).

The yarns used to manufacture the fabric of Fig. 1 are multifilament bundles, generally round in shape. However, as may be seen from Fig. 1, when woven into a fabric, they assume a somewhat flattened, generally elliptical shape. This shape may be quantified to some degree by determining their "aspect ratio", that is, the ratio of their length "a" (as measured along their major axis or axis of greatest extent) to their width "b" (as measured along their minor axis or axis of least extent), both as measured at the point of shed crossing between two fill yarns as seen in Fig. 1A. For fabrics at normal weaving density, the aspect ratio is much larger than one, i.e., $a/b \gg 1$.

A second measure of the yarn shape may be obtained by examining the spacing of the warp yarns as measured at the point of crossing of a fill yarn, i.e., at the center of the fill yarn, and comparing this to the width of the warp yarns at the same location. The spacing between the warp yarns is shown as the distance "w". For fabrics at normal weaving density, the spacing ratio, s/w , approaches 1.

Fig. 1 is to be contrasted with Fig. 2, which is a tightly or densely woven fabric as used in accordance with the present invention and formed from warp yarns 16 and fill yarns 18. The fabric of Fig. 2 was plain woven from a 200 denier 5z t29 Kevlar multifilament warp ("5z" indicating 5 twists to the inch and "t29" the type number, designating normal Kevlar in this instance) and a 400 4z t29 Kevlar multifilament fill yarn at a density of 110 ends per inch warp, 67 picks per inch fill, i.e., a 110x67 (200x400) fabric. As opposed to the roughly oval or elliptical cross sections of the fabric of Fig. 1 at the shed crossings, the fabric of Fig. 2 has a squarer cross section, with an aspect ratio a/b much less than that of the fabric of Fig. 1 and indeed much closer to 1. Further, the spacing ratio, s/w , of the fabric of Fig. 2 is much less than that of the fabric of Fig. 1, and is much less than one, i.e., $s/w \ll 1$.

A more detailed examination of the warp structure of the fabric of Fig. 2 at the shed cross shows that the warp yarns have a "keystone" structure, that is, the yarn cross sections have been distorted by the weaving into roughly square shapes such that adjacent yarns have opposed and complementary slopes at their mating surfaces. This is shown more clearly in Fig. 2C which is an enlarged view of three adjacent yarns from Fig. 2A at the shed crossing. The

yarns 16a, 16b, 16c mate together pairwise at common interfaces 20 and 22, respectively. At these interfaces, when traversing the yarn surfaces in a clockwise direction, the right face of the leftmost yarn of a pair, e.g., yarn 16a, slopes down and to the left, while the left face of the rightmost yarn of a pair, e.g., yarn 16b, slopes up and to the right. The result is an interlocking structure that resists yarn movement out of the plane of the fabric, and thus provides significant penetration resistance.

Another indicator of the geometric structure of the fabric of the present invention is the amount of overlap or "cover" between adjacent warp yarns as measured at the fill crossing. Referring to Fig. 2B, the cover may be determined as the sums of each of the widths w of the yarns in a given cross section, divided by the length, " l ", of the cross section. Referring now to Fig. 3, the cover of a typical normal fabric (70x70, 200x200) as well as that of several densely woven yarns in accordance with the present invention is shown. As seen in Fig. 3, the cover 30 of the normal fabric is of the order of approximately 115%, with 100% indicating essentially no overlap, on average. In contrast, the cover of densely woven fabrics in accordance with the present invention is significantly higher. Thus, the cover 32 of a 90x88 (200x200) fabric is of the order of 130%. The cover 36 of a 110x67 (200x400) fabric is seen to be just slightly in excess of the 90x88 fabric, while the cover 34 of a 131-65 (200x400) fabric is even higher, approximately 140%.

Still another measure of the structure measure of the structure of the fabric of the present invention is the ratio of its "crimp" in the warp direction versus its crimp in the fill direction. The crimp in a given direction (warp or fill) is defined as the length of a given section of yarn along that direction when woven divided by the length of the same yarn when freed from its woven state in the section. Fig. 4 shows the amount of crimp for different fabrics, namely, a 70x70 (200x200) (indicated as element 40), a 90x88 (200x200) (element 42), a 110x67 (200x400) (element 44), and a 131x65 (200x400) (element 46) fabric. The crimp along both the warp (e.g., 40a) and fill (e.g., 40b) directions for each of these fabrics is given. It is readily seen that the crimp in the normal fabric (element 40) is significantly less than that of the densely woven fabrics used in the present invention. (42, 44, 46).

As discussed above, the high cover or density of yarn packing in the warp and fill directions relates directly to the closed interstices which are critical to penetration resistance. Another important factor adding to penetration resistance of the tightly packed structure is the asymmetry of the crimp of the warp and fill yarns. In order for the fill yarns to be packed

closely together, the warp yarns must follow an increasingly crimped serpentine path.

As defined above, the crimp is the ratio of a gauge length of yarn in the woven substrate to the yarn length after being removed from the woven substrate and extending it straight. In one embodiment of the present invention, the crimp of the warp yarn is greater than the crimp of the fill yarn, resulting in a tightly packed woven structure that exhibits high penetration resistance. In an example of the present invention, using a 200 denier warp yarns at 110 ends and 400 denier fill yarns at 66 pics, the fill yarn crimp falls within the range of 1%-2% and the warp yarn crimp falls within the range of 25%-27%. When viewed, the highly crimped warp yarn resembles a serpentine shape and forms a tube-like structure around the relatively straight fill yarn. A very dense weave structure requires a high-warp crimp. The high warp crimp is necessary for forming a tight structure with minimally sized openings in the interstices. It should be understood, however, that highly crimped yarns can be made without enough yarns per inch in the warp direction to form a tight enough weave for sufficient puncture-resistance performance to suit a particular application. Thus, both the packing density and the high warp crimp are important for puncture-resistance.

Fig. 5 summarizes the performance of a number of fabrics with respect to several generally accepted performance measures for protective fabrics performance measures for protective fabrics. Four test conditions are shown, namely, penetration with a 3:1 instrument; penetration with a 12:1 instrument; cutting with a single edge knife; and cutting with a double edge knife. The penetration resistance in the 3:1 test is measured by the standard ASTM four layer penetration test; that for the 12:1 test is for penetration by an 80 mil probe. The single edge knife test is the Ekco dagger point test. In each case the penetration or cutting resistance is measured in pounds of force. The resistance per square ounce of fabric is also tabulated, as well as the effective cost of the fabric per pound of resistance.

The latter figure, as well as the resistance in pounds of the various materials listed in Fig. 5, are shown graphically in Figs. 6 and 7. In each figure, four data points are shown for each fabric material listed in Fig. 5. For example, in Fig. 6, the material identified as a 131x65 (200 5z t29, 200 10z t2) fabric in Fig. 5 has a 3:1 penetration resistance as shown at 62a; a 12:1 penetration resistance as shown at 62b; a single edge knife resistance as shown at 62c; and a double edge knife resistance as shown at 62d.

From Fig. 6, it will clearly be seen that the 110x67 (200x400) fabric (58) is clearly superior in the 3:1 penetration test, and is better than all but one of the other fabrics in the

12:1 penetration test. Additionally, it has a fairly high rating in the singles edge knife test, and is as strong as any other fabric in the double edge knife test. Thus it offers superior penetration resistance, while retaining excellent knife edge resistance.

An important consideration in a protective fabric is its cost per unit of protection. This is shown in Fig. 7 for the various fabrics of Fig. 5 and for each of the four threats. For example, for the 110x67 (200x400) material discussed above, the cost per pound of resistance of this material for the four types of threats, namely, 3:1, 12:1, single edge knife and double edge knife is shown at 58a', 58b', 58c', and 58d', respectively. It will be seen from this that the 110x67 fabric has superior cost performance in the 3:1 and 12:1 penetration test, while retaining excellent relative performance in the single and double edge knife tests.

The number of layers of the base fabric, and the specific type of fabric of each layer, will vary with the types of threat against which protection is to be maximized. For example, for protection primarily against harm by penetration, in excess of thirty layers of 110x67 (200x400) fabric will generally be effective. For protection against multiple threats, such as both penetration and cutting (knife threats), a combination of layers of protective fabric of varied but dense weaving may be used, including a coated base fabric as described in more detailed below.

As discussed above, the preceding fabric structures offer excellent resistance to puncture and additionally provides significant resistance to penetration by sharp knives. The resistances to the latter can be enhanced even more in accordance with a further embodiment of the present invention illustrated in Fig. 8. In that figure, a densely woven fabric is shown coated in interrupted or patterned fashion with a high modulus lamination epoxy spread over the fabric at a rate of 2-5 ounces per square yard. The pattern illustrated in Fig. 8 for example comprises a plurality of rectangular coated areas or "islands" separated by uncoated "streets". The "islands" provide high in-plane resistance to the flat faces of a knife attempting to penetrate the material, and thus enhance resistance to penetration, while the "streets" provide a bending capability to the otherwise rigid material.

The diameters and diameter ratios of the warp yarn to the fill yarn may be selected to optimize performance and manufacturing ease of the highly warp crimped weave of the present invention. As explained below, a balance must be struck in selecting a yarn diameter between yarn wear incurred during weaving and increased weave density. The reed drive of a weaving machine provides the mechanical force necessary to weave the yarns into place in the

weave substrate. As yarn diameter increases, the force required to bend the warp yarns around the filling yarns increases substantially. Thus, yarn wear also increases as the diameter of the yarn increases with the highly warp crimped structure of the present invention. In addition, greater density warp yarns are more difficult to weave in a tightly woven structure than less dense yarns because the bending force necessary to crimp the larger yarns negatively effect the operation of the reed drive. Further, larger density yarns yield a stiffer fabric as the resulting weave is thicker, rendering such yarns less than optimal for applications in which a flexible fabric is desired. Increasing the diameter of the yarns, however, increases the density of the woven structure and provides improved penetration resistance, therefore providing a general desire to increase yarn density. For certain applications, it was determined that 200 denier yarns exhibit an ideal balance between yarn wear during weaving and increased weave density.

It was discovered that using a fill yarn having twice the denier of that of the warp yarn offers an optimal ratio for packing yarns into dense weaves. If a smaller diameter fill yarn is used, then the crimp radii in the warp yarns become smaller and consequently harder to generate. Larger diameter fill yarns overcome the small crimp warp yarn radii drawback associated with the use of smaller fill yarns. As larger diameter fill yarns are used, however, such that the ratio of fill yarn diameter to warp yarn diameter increases above 2:1, the filling stiffness increases and the resulting fabric is more difficult to bend along the fill direction, rendering it less than optimal for certain applications in which a flexible fabric is desired.

In addition to the drawback associated with fill direction stiffness, it was discovered that a 2:1 ratio of fill yarn diameter to warp yarn diameter yields approximately balanced fabrics from a denier-per-inch perspective with the high warp crimp woven substrate of the present invention. The breaking strength of the resulting fabric along either of the thread line directions depends on the number of yarns and their sizes. Yarn count-per-inch times the yarn denier reveals the total fiber content. A fabric having approximately equal denier-per-inch along each of the directions yields high puncture resistance efficiency on a per-weight basis.

Continuous filament yarns are one type of yarns that can be used with the high density woven substrate of the present invention. The yarn manufacturing processes that produces the continuous filament yarns having high strength and high modulus can yield, for example, a bundle of filaments having 1.5 to 5 denier per filament, or 55 to 1500 denier per bundle. Each of the filaments in such a bundle is continuous.

In addition to continuous filament yarn type, the short fiber or "staple" yarn type can be used with the substrate of the present invention. In the cotton and wool yarn manufacturing process, short fibers, or staples, are twisted together into longer yarns. Because of the throughput available to the yarn manufacturer, spinning a large yarn and slicing that yarn into shorter fiber, "staple" yarns, can produce fiber at lower costs. The staple fiber then can be twisted into yarns having a range of different deniers and lengths. The cost of using staple yarns to produce 100 to 400 denier yarns is much less than the cost of using continuous filament yarn of the same denier. While staple yarns can be used with the highly densely woven substrate of the present invention and are desirable in terms of their reduced cost, in some circumstances the resulting substrate offers lower performance in terms of stab and puncture resistance.

1.5 inch staple yarns, for example, can be used with the tightly woven substrate of the present invention for tensile loading. Typically, staple yarns are used only where the fabric will undergo slight tensile or tear loading. With a tightly woven substrate, and the use of high modulus coatings, the short fibers can trade load and shear effectively and work well against tensile and tear.

A special process used for making staple yarns is known as "stretch breaking". With this process, a larger yarn is drawn down and individual filaments are broken to allow for the denier to be reduced. Such stretch broken yarns are available in deniers below 200 and in staple or filament lengths of up to 40 inches. One cotton system for spinning yarns of 1.5 inch staple, for example, is limited to yarns in para-aramids to approximately 100 denier. In order to produce a weavable warp yarn, such 100 denier yarn must be plied to produce yarn with adequate abrasion resistance for weaving tight fabrics. Stretch-broken yarns allow for the production of a very long staple yarn of 50-100 denier which can be used unplied as warp yarn. Short staple yarns allow for the production of the 200x400 denier designs with low material cost. Stretch-broken yarns also enable for the production of a thinner, more flexible fabric for reasonable cost.

In an embodiment of the invention, the base fabric comprised a 110x67 densely woven fabric coated with a Gougeon Bros. type 126 epoxy resin applied at a rate of from two to five ounces per square yard. The resin was set by means of a Gougeon Bros. type 226 hardner, with curing first at room temperature and then at 140°F. This material has a tensile modulus on the order of 5×10^5 .

The patterned structure is preferably formed on the base fabric in a manner similar to photographic methods, i.e., a material resistant to bonding to the epoxy (e.g., paraffin or the like) is first laid down on the fabric in the pattern of the streets. This may be accomplished by silk screening, gravure printing, or other known techniques. The epoxy is then applied in a thin, even layer over the material and hardened. The resist material is then removed, exposing the underlying, uncoated streets between the coated lands. In the test example described herein, the "islands" were on the order of one inch square, while the streets were on the order of one-sixteenth wide. In forming a protective garment, the base structure is stacked in a plurality of layers, e.g., layers 84, 86, and 88 as shown in Fig. 9, and cut to site. The layers may be jointed by any of various well-known means, such as stitching them together, etc.

The resultant structure was tested by stacking 14 sheets of this material and subjecting the stack to a standard H B White drop test. This test uses a 16.2 pound weight to drive a Russell boning knife into the layered stack. The height from which the weight must be dropped in order to penetrate a stated number of layers is a measure of the penetration resistance of the stack. In the present case, it was found that the knife failed to penetrate the fourteenth layer when the drop was made from up to nearly 2.5 feet above the stack, corresponding to a penetration energy of 40 foot pounds. Indeed, the knife buckled in consequence of the resistance provided by the stack.

The embodiment of Fig. 8 does not provide the high drapability of the fabric structures previously described, but it nonetheless does provide adequate drapability accompanied by an extremely high degree of protection. The "streets" of the fabric not only serve as hinge points for bending, but also provide pathways for "breathing", thus contributing to a more comfortable wear for the user. The "islands" may vary in size from fractions of an inch along the maximum dimensions, to inches; the streets typically are narrow, i.e., on the order of fractions of an inch. Further, the islands may take any shape, i.e., square, rectangular, diamond, circular, etc. The smaller the islands, the more hinge points for bending are provided; however, this also reduces the ratio of the coated area (islands) to uncoated area (streets) and thus requires a greater number of layers to obtain a desired level of protection. Of course, care must also be taken to avoid alignment of the streets in successive layers, since such alignment also reduces the effective protection obtained from the material.

The tightly woven substrate of the present invention offers penetration resistance both to circular and cutting type penetrators. Based on tests, the substrate of the invention offers the

following advantages. 1) The substrate provides resistance to circular penetrators such as ice
pics, awls and homemade prison weapons. 2) The substrate provides resistance to cutting
edge penetrators including UK test knives, German Othello test daggers and U.S. Russell
boning knives. 3) The substrate provides resistance to small diameter penetrators likes thorns
and sharp sticks. 4) The substrate provides resistance to puncture by small cutting
5 penetrators like hypodermic needles. 5) The substrate provides cut and slash resistance
approximately 19 times greater than that offered by ballistic fabrics. 6) The substrate provides
reduction of depth of trauma resulting from ballistic type impacts. Used in combination with
and placed behind typical ballistic materials, the substrate of the present invention reduces
measured backside trauma depth by a factor of 2 to 3 times. This allows for an attractive
10 combination of ballistic performance where NIJ ballistic performance of a level 2a or 3 can be
achieved with layer counts similar to current ballistic vest-only systems. The ballistic
performance was maintained by substituting $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the ballistic layers with the substrate
of the present invention. Dramatic improvements in stab and puncture resistance were
achieved. The depth of backside trauma is much improved over the all-ballistic product. 7)
15 The substrate provides reduction of blunt trauma resulting from blows from striking club-like
weapons and thrown objects such as sharp stones. As above, the substrate of the present
invention provided significant reduction in the depth of the affected zone. The high-bias
stiffness of the tightly woven substrate of the present invention prevents the material from
forming deep concave indents. The substrate of the invention strongly resists being bent into
20 compound curves having small radii. In order for a striking blow or a rock to deeply indent
the substrate, the fabric must conform to this concave shape. The substrate of the invention,
with its very high off-thread line and bias stiffness, lacks the drape and elongation necessary
for the deep indenting. The substrate of the invention spreads out the point of contact and
distributes the impact forces over a large area of tissue. Based on the use of Roma plastilina
25 as a tissue stimulant, 1-4 layers of the substrate of the invention can reduce the depth of
trauma by a factor of 5-10 times. 8) The substrate of the invention provides abrasion
resistance for sliding wear situations in industrial protective apparel. Gloves, gauntlets,
aprons and chaps all require a combination of cut and abrasion resistance. The substrate of
the present invention offers excellent cut and abrasion resistance to suit the industrial
30 protective apparel application.

Having thus described at least one illustrative embodiment of the invention, various

5 Accordingly, the foregoing description is by way of example only and is not intended as limiting. The invention is limited only as defined in the following claims and the equivalents thereto.

What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

1. A protective fabric substrate comprising:
a plurality of warp yarns densely interwoven with a plurality of fill yarns;
wherein a denier of the fill yarn is not equal to a denier of the warp yarn.
2. The protective fabric substrate as claimed in claim 1 wherein the denier of the fill yarn is greater than the denier of the warp yarn.
3. The protective fabric substrate as claimed in claim 2 wherein the denier of the fill yarn is at least 1.5 times greater than the denier of the warp yarn.
4. The protective fabric substrate as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least some of the yarns are staple yarns.
5. The protective fabric substrate as claimed in claim 1 further including a layer of epoxy resin applied to the substrate.
6. A protective fabric substrate comprising:
a plurality of warp yarns densely interwoven with a plurality of fill yarns;
wherein a warp crimp is greater than a fill crimp; and
wherein a denier of the fill yarn is greater than a denier of the warp yarn.
7. The protective fabric substrate as claimed in claim 6 wherein the warp crimp is at least five times greater than the fill crimp.
8. The protective fabric substrate as claimed in claim 6 wherein the fill yarn denier is at least 1.5 times greater than the warp yarn denier.

9. A protective fabric substrate comprising:
a substrate including a plurality of warp yarns densely interwoven with a plurality of fill yarns; and
a layer of the epoxy resin applied to the substrate.

04097-03260

ABSTRACT

A protective fabric of high penetration resistance is formed from a plurality of layered, densely woven base fabrics, each formed by tightly weaving multifilament yarns to obtain a warp yarn "density" or "cover" in excess of 100% at the center of the fill yarn, and a fill yarn density or cover preferably also in excess of 75%. The yarns themselves preferably comprise a high modulus, high breaking strength yarn of materials such as Kevlar, Spectra, or Vectran. The resultant layered fabric offers especially high penetration resistance to weapons such as ice picks and the like. Additional resistance to penetration by sharp knives is provided by interruptedly coating the base fabric with an epoxy in such a manner as to inhibit penetration while providing drapability and breathability.

05239208.040990

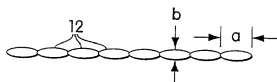


Fig. 1A

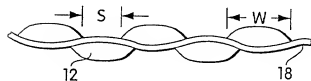


Fig. 1B



Fig. 2A

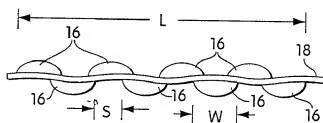


Fig. 2B

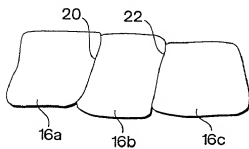


Fig. 2C

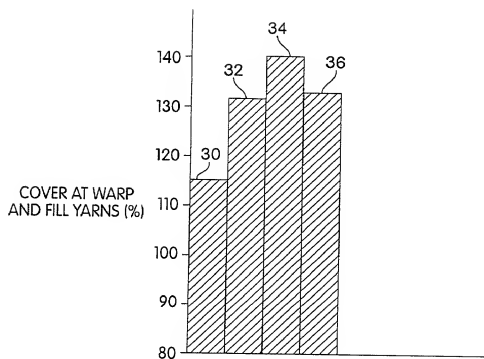


Fig. 3

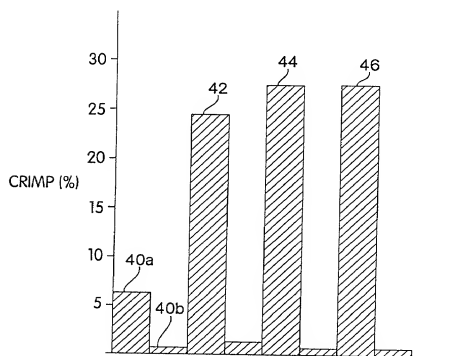


Fig. 4

CONSTRUCTION	110x52	131x65	70x70	110x66	110x88	90x88	90x68
WARP	200 5z 129	200 5z 115	200	200 5z 129	200 5z 129	200 5z 129	200 5z 129
FILL	750 0z 129	400 4z 129	200 0z 115	400 4z 129	200 10z 12	200 10z 12	400 4z 129
PUNCTURE 3:1							
ASTM 4 LAYER PUNCTURE #’s	105.30	115.00	74.00	124.00	106.40	94.00	97.49
#’s PUNCTURE/oz2	3.14	3.79	5.04	4.55	4.29	4.59	3.76
\$/#’s OF PUNCTURE	1.15	1.02	1.13	0.81	1.10	1.01	1.19
PUNCTURE 12:1							
12:1 80 MIL #’s	57.10	66.37	31.90	60.10	52.00	47.60	60.70
#’s PUNCTURE/oz2	1.70	2.19	2.17	2.21	2.09	2.33	2.34
\$/#’s OF PUNCTURE	2.12	1.77	2.61	1.68	2.26	2.00	1.90
KNIFE SINGLE EDGE							
Ka_BAR CUT 4 LAYER #’s	62.90	60.40	36.70	46.98	45.94	42.59	44.86
#’s CUT/oz2	1.88	1.99	2.50	1.72	1.85	2.08	1.73
\$/#’s CUT	1.93	1.94	2.27	2.15	2.56	2.24	2.58
KNIFE DOUBLE EDGE							
EKCO DAGGER POINT #’s	17.75	17.38	17.48	17.75	17.68	12.50	14.47
#’s CUT/oz2	0.53	0.57	1.19	0.65	0.71	0.61	0.56
\$/#’s CUT	6.83	6.75	4.77	5.68	6.65	7.62	7.99
REF. NO. (Figs. 6,7)	[56]	[62]	[50]	[58]	[60]	[54]	[52]

Fig. 5

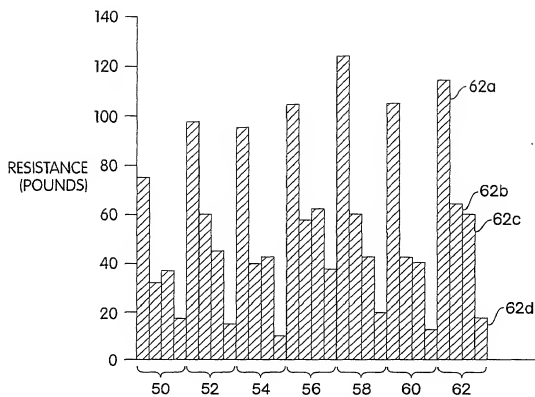


Fig. 6

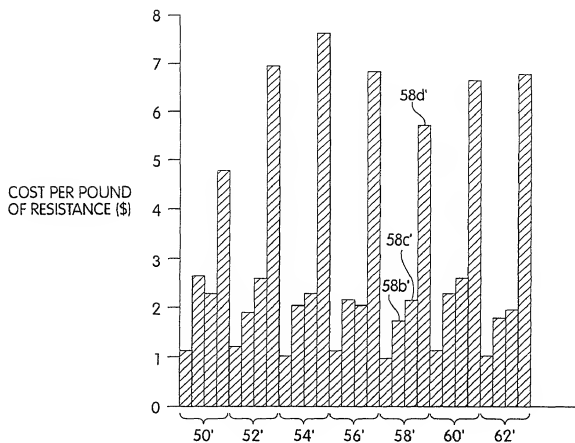


Fig. 7

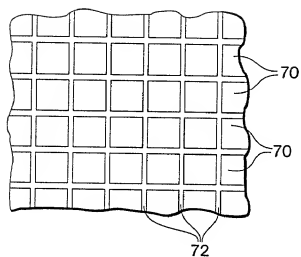


Fig. 8

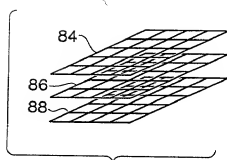


Fig. 9

Attorney Docket No. W0490/7001

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

PROTECTIVE FABRIC HAVING HIGH PENETRATION RESISTANCE

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following is checked:

☒ was filed on October 15, 1996, as United States Application Serial No. 08/729,926.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or section 365(a) of any PCT International application designating at least one country other than the United States listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign PCT International Application(s) and any priority claims under 35 U.S.C. §119 and 365(a), (b):

(Number)	(Country-if PCT, so indicate)	(DD/MM/YY Filed)	Priority Claimed
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
			YES NO

(Number)	(Country)	(DD/MM/YY Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
			YES NO

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

(Application Number)	(filing date)
----------------------	---------------

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT International application(s) designating the United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

(Application No.)	(filing date)	(status-patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application No.)	(filing date)	(status-patented, pending, abandoned)

PCT International Applications designating the United States:

(PCT Appl. No.)	(U.S. Ser. No.)	(PCT filing date)	(status-patented,pending,abandoned)
-----------------	-----------------	-------------------	-------------------------------------

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

David Wolf	17,528	Jason M. Honeyman	31,624	James M. Hanifin, Jr.	39,213
George L. Greenfield	17,756	James H. Morris	34,681	David E. Huang	39,229
Stanley Sacks	19,900	Peter C. Lando	34,654	Thomas M. Sullivan	39,392
David M. Driscoll	25,075	Gary S. Engelson	35,128	Christopher S. Schultz	37,929
Edward F. Perlman	28,105	Peter J. Gordon	35,164	Paul D. Sorkin	39,039
Lawrence M. Green	29,384	Randy J. Pritzker	35,986	Douglas C. Doskocil	39,660
Steven J. Henry	27,900	Richard F. Giunta	36,149	John R. Van Amsterdam	40,212
Theresa A. Hendricks	30,389	Douglas R. Wolf	36,971	Barry W. Chapin	39,934
Edward R. Gates	31,616	Helen A. Greer	36,816	Scott A. Ouellette	38,573
William R. McClellan	29,409	Elizabeth R. Plumer	36,637	Joseph P. Aiena	39,501
Ronald J. Kransdorf	20,004	Timothy J. Oyer	36,628	Matthew B. Lowrie	38,228
M. Lawrence Oliverio	30,915	Kristofer E. Elbing	34,590	Jodi-Ann McLane	36,215
James J. Foster	30,052	John N. Anastasi	37,765	Michael G. Verga	39,410
Charles E. Pfund	17,030	Brett N. Dorny	35,860	Shirly N. Wodeslavsky	40,233
Anthony J. Mirabito	28,161	Helen C. Kindregan	39,248	Robert E. Rigby, Jr.	36,904

Address all telephone calls to Randy J. Pritzker at telephone no. (617) 720-3500. Address all correspondence to

Randy J. Pritzker
c/o Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.,
Federal Reserve Plaza
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02210-2211

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Charles A. Howland
Inventor's signature
Full name of sole or first inventor Charles A. Howland
Citizenship United States of America
Residence (City and State, or City and Country for non-U.S. residence)
32 Pitceon Road, Weston, Massachusetts 02193
Post Office Address Same

12/16/96

Date